AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The present amendment amends claims 33-36. According to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), after entry of the present amendment, the following claims are in the case:

1. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid segment comprising at least a first isolated coding region that encodes a first peptide of between 18 and about 24 amino acids in length that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least about 88% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 1, wherein said at least a first isolated coding region encodes a first peptide that comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least about 94% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

3. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 2, wherein said at least a first isolated coding region encodes a first peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

4. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 3, wherein said at least a first isolated coding region encodes a first peptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

5. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 3, wherein said at least a first isolated coding region comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 5, wherein said at least a first isolated coding region has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 1, wherein said at least a first isolated coding region is positioned under the control of a promoter.

8. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid segment further comprises at least a second isolated coding region that encodes a second protein, polypeptide or peptide.

9. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 8, wherein said at least a first isolated coding region is operatively attached, in frame, to said at least a second isolated coding region and wherein said nucleic acid segment encodes a fusion protein in which said first peptide is linked to said second protein, polypeptide or peptide.

10. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 8, wherein said at least a second isolated coding region encodes a second, distinct *Coccidioides spp.* protein, polypeptide or peptide.

Claim 11 canceled

12. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 8, wherein said at least a second isolated coding region encodes an adjuvant protein, polypeptide or peptide.

13. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 1, further defined as a recombinant vector.

14. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 1, comprised within a recombinant host cell.

15. (Original) The nucleic acid segment of claim 1, comprised within a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

16. (Original) A recombinant vector that comprises at least a first isolated nucleic acid segment in accordance with claim 1.

17. (Original) A recombinant host cell that comprises at least a first isolated nucleic acid segment in accordance with claim 1.

18. (Original) The recombinant host cell of claim 17, wherein said host cell further comprises at least a second isolated coding region that encodes a second, distinct *Coccidioides spp.* protein, polypeptide or peptide.

19. (Original) The recombinant host cell of claim 17, wherein said host cell is a prokaryotic host cell.

20. (Original) The recombinant host cell of claim 17, wherein said host cell is a yeast host cell or a mammalian host cell.

21. (Original) A composition comprising at least a first isolated nucleic acid segment in accordance with claim 1.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises at least second isolated coding region that encodes a second, distinct *Coccidioides spp.* protein, polypeptide or peptide.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises at least a first adjuvant.

25. (Original) A vaccine formulation comprising, in a pharmaceutically acceptable form, an immunologically effective amount of at least a first isolated nucleic acid segment in accordance with claim 1.

Claims 26-32 canceled

33. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising an isolated coding region~~ that encodes a peptide ~~having~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

34. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33, wherein said ~~isolated coding region has~~ nucleic acid molecule is set forth as the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

35. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33, wherein said ~~isolated coding region~~ nucleic acid molecule is positioned under the control of a promoter.

36. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33, ~~further defined as~~ wherein said nucleic acid molecule is positioned in a recombinant vector.

37. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33, comprised within a recombinant host cell.

38. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33, comprised within a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

39. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vector that comprises an isolated nucleic acid molecule in accordance with claim 33.

40. (Previously Presented) A recombinant host cell that comprises an isolated nucleic acid molecule in accordance with claim 33.

41. (Previously Presented) The recombinant host cell of claim 40, wherein said host cell is a prokaryotic host cell.

42. (Previously Presented) The recombinant host cell of claim 40, wherein said host cell is a yeast host cell or a mammalian host cell.

43. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule in accordance with claim 33.

44. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 43, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

45. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 43, wherein said composition further comprises at least a first adjuvant.